

Decline of the Ottoman Empire

Overview

- Military Decline
- Loss of Territory
- Economic Troubles
- Attempts at Reform
- The Young Turks

Military Decline

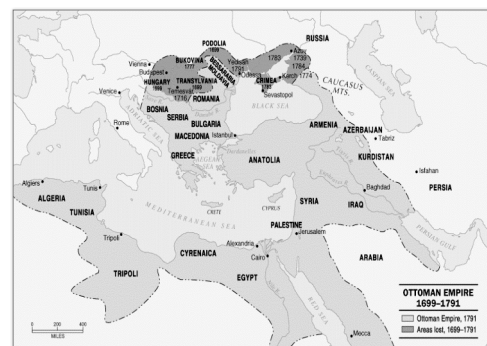
- Janissaries
 - Corruption and decline
 - Palace coups stop reform
- Semi-independent governors
 - Private armies
 - Own slaves
 - Pocketing Imperial taxes = no \$ for Sultan

Put it in Context...

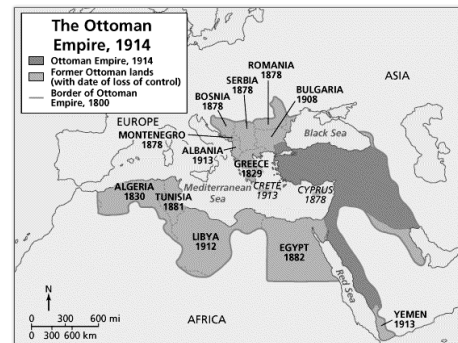
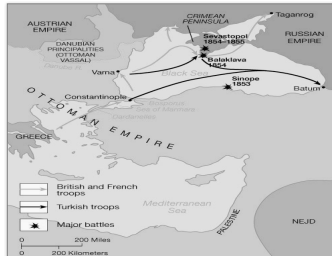
- Similarities and Differences to Roman and Han decline?

Loss of Territory

- Central Asian/Caucasus provinces (Russia)
- Western Frontiers (Austria)
- Nationalist uprisings / Independence (Greece & Serbia)
- **Egypt:** Napoleonic Invasion ⇒ Rise of Muhammad Ali (British keep him from invading Istanbul)



Crimean War, 1854-1856



Economic Troubles

- **Trade:** \$ of Ottoman Exports < \$ European goods
 - **Raw Materials vs. Manufactured Goods**
- **DEBT!**-European \$ financed Ottoman railroads, mines, utilities
 - **Loans needed to offset \$ siphoned off by governors**
- **Capitulations:** Euro. Granted extraterritoriality rights, spheres of influence
 - **Tax exempt foreign banks, foreign levies on Ottoman ports**

Put it in Context...

- How do Ottoman trade relationships compare to those in China during this time?

Attempts at Reform

- **Modernization of Military**
 - Massacre of Janissary = effective reform possible
- **Modernization of Education**
 - Euro.-style military and engineering
 - Secondary education for boys in scientific, technical, and military academy (**no longer mosque schools**)
- **Increased Secularization**
 - Undermining Ulama
- **Government**
 - Bring governors under control
- **Infrastructure**
 - Postal Service, roads, telegraphs

Attempts at Reform

- **Tanzimat**
 - **("Reorganization" 1839-76)**
 - French-Style **civil, penal, maritime, commercial code**
 - Privacy rights, equality before law
 - State-controlled, compulsory public education

Tie it In...

- ♦ How are Ottoman Reforms similar to Japanese, Russian, Chinese attempts to modernize?
- ♦ What keeps Ottoman from being successful?
- ♦ Between China, Russia, and Japan, who does the Ottoman Empire most resemble at this point?

"Youth" Resistance

- ♦ Young Ottomans: collective resistance to Tanzimat - wanted British-style gov't
- ♦ Young Turks:
 - Founded by exiles in Paris
 - Media (newspaper) to spread message
 - Universal suffrage, equality before law, freedom of religion, free public education, **secularization of gov't**, emancipation of women
 - Use of **Turkish** as official language

What do you think?

- ♦ What is the significance of pursuing a secular society for the Ottoman Empire?
- ♦ Why is this unique for the region?